

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Members/Alternates Present

Jeff Baker, Chair	Arapahoe County
Julie Duran Mullica	Adams County
Claire Levy	Boulder County
Austin Ward	City and County of Broomfield
Jodie Hartman-Ball, Alternate	Clear Creek County
Adam Paul	City and County of Denver
Kevin Flynn	City and County of Denver
Kevin Van Winkle	Douglas County
Susan Berumen	Gilpin County
Rachel Zenzinger, Alternate	Jefferson County
Sharon Davis	City of Arvada
Alison Coombs	City of Aurora
Larry Vittum	Town of Bennett
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Greg Mills	City of Brighton
Deborah Mulvey	City of Castle Pines
Jason Gray	Town of Castle Rock
Tammy Maurer	City of Centennial
Steve Douglas*	City of Commerce City
Steve Conklin	City of Edgewater
Emily Baer	Town of Erie
Ray Byrd	Town of Firestone
Windi Padia	Town of Frederick
Lynette Kelsey	Town of Georgetown
Rachel Binkley	City of Glendale
Lisa Vitry, Alternate	City of Golden
George Lantz	City of Greenwood Village
Brian Wong	City of Lafayette
Jeslin Shahrezaei	City of Lakewood
Kat Bristow	Town of Lochbuie
Marissa Harmon	City of Lone Tree
Judi Kern	City of Louisville
Colleen Whitlow	Town of Mead
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
John Diak	Town of Parker
Terrence Kelly*	City of Sheridan
Neal Shah	Town of Superior
Justin Martinez	City of Thornton
Sarah Nurmela	City of Westminster
Bud Starker	City of Wheat Ridge
Darius Pakbaz	Colorado Department of Transportation

Others Present: Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, Melinda Stevens, Executive Assistant, DRCOG; Michele Riccio*, Kathy Henson*, Adams County; Jim Katzer, Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County; DJ Beckwith*, Chris Hinds*, Denver: Art Griffith*, Douglas County; Brad Rupert, Arvada; Mac Callison, Tom Worker-Braddock; Aurora; Royce Pindell,

Bennett; Larry Strock, Lochbuie; Kent Moorman*, Thornton; Claire Carmelia, Lucy Herbert, Westminster; Ed Bowditch, Jennifer Cassell, Bowditch & Cassell; Jacob Kershner, Jordan Rude*, John Gardocki*, Nathan Lindquist*, Colorado Department of Transportation; Stacy Tschuor, Leah Langerman, David Evans and Associates; Randle Loeb, Matthew Gibbs, Citizens; and DRCOG staff.

*Participated via Zoom

Chair Jeff Baker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a quorum present.

The Chair announced a new member government joining the DRCOG Board: The Town of Mountain View, with the new member being Emilie Mitcham and the new alternate being Laura Dennis. Additionally, the Chair noted new members and alternates: Lee Berenato, new member for the Town of Silver Plume; Julie Duran Mullica, new member for Adams County; Rebecca Lloyd, new member for Clear Creek County; Susan Berumen, new member for Gilpin County; Sharon Davis, new member for the City of Arvada; Alison Coombs, new member for the City of Aurora; Kathy Henson, new alternate for Adams County; Rhonda Fields, new alternate for Arapahoe County; Jodie Hartman-Ball, new alternate for Clear Creek County; Brad Rupert, new alternate for the City of Arvada; and Isabel Cruz, new alternate for the City of Lakewood.

Move to approve agenda

Director Starker **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) presentation

Mike Silverstein, Executive Director for the Regional Air Quality Council, presented an overview of the council's work to the Directors. The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) serves as the lead air quality planning agency for its region, focusing on developing air quality plans, recommending emission reduction strategies, and implementing pollution control measures. Operating as a nonprofit rather than a state agency, RAQC is primarily funded through grants, contracts, and contributions from local governments. The council's board consists of 32 members, including appointees from local and state agencies, transportation entities, and business and academic representatives. Their main focus is addressing the region's persistent summertime ozone pollution, which has resulted in over 40 days exceeding federal air quality standards in recent years. While some progress has been made, air quality challenges persist due to regional growth, meteorological factors, and emissions from vehicles, industrial sources, and even small contributors like lawn and garden equipment. The RAQC aims to mitigate these issues by analyzing data, proposing strategies, and advising policymakers on actions needed to achieve compliance with air quality standards.

Report of the Chair

Chair Baker announced that there will be a public hearing for the draft 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program and associated Air Quality Conformity Determination on March 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. He also wanted to let Directors know that Nicole Speer is now a member on DRCOGs Regional Building Decarbonization Oversight Committee.

- Director Conklin reported that the Performance and Engagement Committee met prior to the meeting and received a preview of this year's annual awards celebration. They also met and discussed this year's annual Board Retreat and having a peer exchange with another council in the United States for next year.
- Director Kondo reported the Finance and Budget Committee met prior to the meeting and approved three action items authorizing the Executive Director to:
 - negotiate and execute a contract with Suple Advertising and Design to provide marketing and communication services for DRCOG's building decarbonization program for approximately \$9,000,000 through March 31, 2027, with an option to renew through October 16, 2029 upon satisfactory performance.
 - execute a contract with the Regional Transportation District for support of the vanpool services offered by the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Way to Go program in an amount not to exceed \$684,000 beginning on January 1, 2025, and terminating on December 31, 2025.
 - execute a contract with Enterprise Leasing Company of Denver, LLC to provide vanpool services for the Way to Go vanpool program, in a total amount not to exceed \$684,000 beginning on January 1, 2025, and terminating on December 31, 2025.

Report of the Executive Director

- 2025 Awards Celebration: The celebration will take place on August 27 at the Seawell Ballroom for the third consecutive year, with award nominations now open across multiple categories.
- Federal Funding impacts on DRCOG operations: Federal funding for longstanding programs, including metropolitan planning and aging services, remains stable with no reimbursement issues. However, the \$200 million EPA decarbonization grant is under close watch, as its reimbursement portal was recently reopened after being frozen. Additionally, proposed Medicaid cuts could increase demand for aging services, straining already limited resources.

Public Comment

Randel Loeb wanted to bring light to the fact that funding for the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative has been frozen, jeopardizing years of progress in supporting the homeless population. He emphasized the urgency of local action to protect vulnerable communities, stressing that true change relies on individuals and local efforts rather than federal intervention.

Move to approve consent agenda

Director Byrd **moved** to approve the consent agenda. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Summary of the January 15, 2025, meeting
- Appointments to the Performance & Engagement and Finance & Budget committees.
- Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Election of Officers

Director Speer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, along with Directors Ward, Maurer, Flynn, Conklin, and Kerr, considered all individuals who submitted their names to serve as Board officers. After discussion and consideration, the candidates proposed were recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee:

- Vice Chair – Colleen Whitlow, Mayor, Town of Mead
- Secretary – Richard Kondo, Council Member, City of Northglenn
- Treasurer – Jeslin Shahrezaei, Council Member, City of Lakewood

Jeff Baker will continue to serve as Chair and Steve Conklin will serve as Immediate Past Chair.

Director Kern **moved** to elect Board officers for 2025 as presented. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion to select representatives to serve on the regional committees.

Interest was solicited for directors to serve as DRCOG's representatives on the Regional Transportation Committee, the State Transportation Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Aging, E-470 Board of Directors, and the new Economic Development District Advisory Committee. New members of the Advisory Committee on Aging are appointed by the Board Chair; Kathy Henson was appointed to the committee. The following directors requested, either through the solicitation or from the floor, to be considered to serve on the following committees:

- Regional Transportation Committee:
 - Deborah Mulvey, City of Castle Pines
 - Tammy Maurer, City of Centennial
 - Austin Ward, City and County of Broomfield – Alternate
 - Steve Conklin, City of Edgewater – Alternate
 - Claire Carmellia, City of Westminster – Alternate

Director Lantz **moved** to approve Board members to serve on the Regional Transportation Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee:
 - Ray Byrd, Town of Firestone
 - Austin Ward, City and County of Broomfield – Alternate

Director Starker **moved** to approve Board members to serve on the Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- E-470 Board of Directors:
 - Deborah Mulvey, City of Castle Pines
 - Julie Duran Mullica, Adams County – Alternate

Director Lantz **moved** to approve the Board members to serve on the E-470 Board of Directors. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

- Economic Development District Advisory Committee:
 - Justin Martinez, City of Thornton
 - Jeslin Shahrezaei, City of Lakewood
 - Colleen Whitlow, Town of Mead
 - Alison Coombs, City of Aurora

Director Vittum **moved** to approve the Board members to serve on the Economic Development District Advisory Committee. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of the 2025 Federal Safety Targets and Adjusted Federal Bridge Condition Targets.

Jacob Riger provided an overview of the targets to the Board. The Federal Government mandates five performance measures, three overseen by the Federal Highway Administration and two by the Federal Transit Administration, each with different update cycles. This presentation focused on two measures: Safety performance (Performance Measure 1), which is updated annually, and Infrastructure Condition (Performance Measure 2), which follows a two- to four-year target cycle. The safety measure analyzes public road data within the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) region, with targets set based on a five-year rolling average of crash data. These targets include the number and rate of fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities and injuries. While the targets are federally required, the organization aligns them with its "Regional Vision Zero" goal, aiming for zero fatalities by 2040 and zero serious injuries by 2045. Despite some progress, recent years have shown challenges in meeting safety targets, prompting renewed efforts in regional safety planning, funding prioritization, and data-driven decision-making.

The bridge condition measure evaluates National Highway System bridges based on deck area rated as good or poor. Since most of these bridges fall under state jurisdiction, the MPO supports the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) targets, which currently aim to improve the percentage of bridges rated as good from 36% to 38.5%. The state's recent data shows progress in bridge conditions, aided by major infrastructure

projects. The recommended motion is to adopt the proposed 2025 safety targets and revised four-year bridge condition targets, aligning with federal performance-based planning requirements.

Director Flynn **moved** to adopt **Resolution No. 2, 2025**, adopting the 2025 safety targets and revised four-year bridge condition targets for the metropolitan planning organization area as part of federal performance-based planning and programming requirements. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of legislative issues: Bills on which positions have previously been taken.

Rich Mauro provided a status update on bills previously acted upon by the Board to the directors. Mr. Mauro wanted to note that [House Bill 25-1044](#) and [House Bill 25-1046](#) have been postponed indefinitely. No additional action by the Board was requested.

Discussion of legislative issues: New Bills for consideration and action.

Rich Mauro, along with Ed Bowditch and Jennifer Cassell, provided an overview of new bills for consideration to the Board. There was one new bill regarding transportation, two bills regarding Aging, and one bill regarding housing for discussion and action. The following bills were voted on separately:

- Aging bills
 - House Bill 25-1156 – Make Senior Home Tax Valuation Reduction Permanent
 - Director Mulvey **moved** a position of support. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 17 in favor, 4 opposed, and 19 abstentions.
 - House Bill 25-1162 – Eligibility Redetermination for Medicaid Members
 - Director Levy **moved** a position of support. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 27 in favor, 1 opposed, and 12 abstentions.
- Transportation bill
 - Senate Bill 25-161 – Transit Reform
 - Director Zenzinger **moved** a position of amend. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 24 in favor, 1 opposed, and 15 abstentions.
- Housing bill
 - House Bill 25-1198 – Regional Planning Roundtable Commission
 - Director Nurmella **moved** a position of oppose. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** with 30 in favor and 10 abstentions.

Parker Road/Colorado State Highway 83 Multimodal Corridor Study.

Jacob Riger Introduced Jim Katzer and Stacy Tschuor to present this study to the Board. The study focuses on transportation improvements along Parker Road, from Hamden to Mississippi, covering parts of Aurora, unincorporated Arapahoe County, and Denver. Funded by federal and local sources, the study aimed to address safety, multimodal connectivity, and travel experience due to increased development. Public input was gathered through meetings and focus groups, ensuring local engagement. The study progressed through a tiered evaluation process, narrowing 16 broad improvement concepts

to 36 specific recommendations. Key priorities included maintaining vehicular operations while enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety, improving transit options, and supporting future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) development.

The recommendations were categorized into high, medium, and lower-priority projects based on feasibility, cost, and impact. High-priority projects included new controlled pedestrian crossings, intersection modifications, and raised medians to improve safety. Medium-priority projects involved shared-use paths, transit improvements, and bike lane connections. Lower-priority projects, often due to higher costs, included corridor-wide enhancements such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The study's next steps involve compiling an implementation plan to guide funding and project execution, ensuring future improvements align with regional transportation goals.

Committee Reports

Due to the meeting running behind schedule, Chair Baker decided to skip this month's reports.

Next meeting – March 19, 2025

Other matters by members

Executive Director Rex wanted to acknowledge Director Marissa Harmon's recognition by the Denver Business Journal on their 40 under 40 list.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Jeff Baker, Chair
Board of Directors
Denver Regional Council of Governments

ATTEST:

Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director